French stand on nuclear cooperation with India

*350. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during his meeting with the French President, the Indian Prime Minister sought an understanding of the French position on nuclear cooperation between the two countries following France's signing of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the outcome therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) In his meeting with the French President the Prime Minister did not raise the issue of nuclear cooperation between India and France.

(b) Does not arise.

Rehabilitation package for workers of Sick Textile Mills

*351. SHRI SOMPAL:

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made arrangements for meeting social security needs and rehabilitation packages for textile workers;

(b) if so, what are the reasons that Rs. 53·65 crores has not been paid to the unemployed textile workers so far;

(c) what are the reasons for not indicating the date by which payment would be made;

(d) what are the names of the 39 viable mills; and

(e) what are the names of the closed mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government have set-up a Textile Workers Rehabilitation Fund for meeting the Social Security needs and rehabilitation packages of the workers rendered jobless due to the closure of the textile mills. A sum of Rs. 53·65 crores has not been paid to the workers so far because the flow of funds under the Scheme is gradual and intermittent and proper documentation as per the guidelines of the Scheme is also necessary to provide a practicable and workable safeguard against the misuse of the Scheme. It is indeed difficult to incidate the dates of likely payment in view of the reasons stated above.

(d) A statement is enclosed [*See* Appendix CLXI, Annexure No· 59]

(e) A statement is enclosed. [*See* Appendix CLXI, Annexures No. 60].

Irregularities at Neyveli Lignite Mines

*352. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to State:

(a) whether Government are aware of serious irregularities in the functioning of Neyveli Lignite Mines where 15,000 tonnes of lignite valued at around Rs. 20 lakhs is missing;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to enquire into such irregularities through the C. B. I. ;

(d) whether it is also a fact that this company is not maintaining a buffer stock of 3 lakh tonnes of coal as required; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (c) Certain discrepancies in the stock position of Thermal Power Station-II (TPS II) has come to Government's notice, and Departmental enquiry has been ordered. Therefore, the need for an enquiry by the CBI at present does not arise.

(d) and (e) The buffer stocks of lignite for consumption in the Power Stations and other down-stream units are being maintained on the basis of the operational requirements. In view of the close proximity of the captive lignite mines, 3 to 5 days stocks are normally maintained.

India's stand at SAARC summit

*353. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has decided to attend the SAARC Summit meeting to be held at Colombo at a mutually accepted date between December 20 and 30: